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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

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WILLEY DELIGHT AT ENGLAND CALL-UP

SEE
PAGE
18



DAUGHTER LAUNCHES RED LIPSTICK CAMPAIGN

By CALLUM JONES
Chronicle Reporter
callum.jones@jpress.co.uk

A daughter from Northampton is asking people to wear red lipstick to raise awareness of her mum's condition.

Gloria Mercer, aged 82, was diagnosed with vascular dementia five years ago and has rapidly declined since 2012.

Her daughter, Jules Osmany, from Billing Road, has watched her mum slowly slip away with only the odd glimpse of her old personality.

But Jules's last lucid conversation with her mum saw Mrs Mercer ask for her trademark red lipstick, which she always wore with pride.

Jules now wants people to adopt red lipstick on May 1 to raise awareness of vascular dementia.

Jules said: "It was on Mother's Day and she said could I get her some red lipstick from the shops."

"It turned out that it was just a blip, but it meant a lot to me at the time because that was her all over."

"She was a model and came from an era, the forties and fifties, when there was all this Hollywood glamour. I was so pleased I bought her three!"

Jules, a make-up artist, now wants people - men or women - to put on red lipstick, take a selfie and use it as their profile picture on Facebook or Twitter. She is also encouraging people to donate £1 to Dementia UK.

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/redlippyday

Jules said: "Red lippy is a real statement. I want people to be asked 'why are you wearing that?' so they can tell people it's for dementia."



Jules Osmany with her mother, Gloria Mercer, wearing her trademark red lipstick which has inspired the campaign

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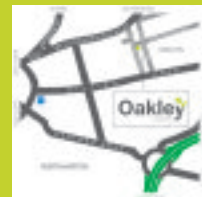
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Becky O'Brien wowed judges on ITV's premier talent competition this week, with her rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

'Changed' academy trust improves financial plan

PAUL LYNCH
Chronicle Reporter
paul.lynych@jpress.co.uk

A mum-of-five from Northampton, who left Simon Cowell speechless after her Britain's Got Talent performance, says she wants to win the competition for her kids.

More than 11 million people tuned in to watch Becky O'Brien's rendition of the Wizard of Oz classic *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* on last Saturday night's show.

The performance was made even more poignant after the 34-year-old spoke about her marriage issues shortly after giving birth to premature twins.

This week the English teacher, buoyed by the 'overwhelming' response to her singing, is dreaming of a place

in the final of the talent competition.

She said: "I would like to think that I could take it all the way.

"To get the chance to go on the Royal Variety performance would be amazing.

"With everything that has happened over the last few years it would be amazing to do this for the kids and to be able to support them financially too."

Miss O'Brien, who lived in Northampton until 2012, comes from a performing family as her father was a comedian and singer and her mother was an actress.

But despite having sung and acted since the age of seven, Miss O'Brien said her height – just 4ft 9 inches – had stopped her from getting parts in the shows.

"I used to go for a lot of auditions when I was younger," she said.

"But the one thing that

kept me back was being small.

Then when she had her first child, Jack 11, Miss O'Brien said she started to move her focus to parenthood.

Her dreams of stardom lay dormant until her 'star' Jack prompted her to go on Britain's Got Talent to 'show Simon Cowell how it's done'.

'I am glad I have given people hope and confidence to talk to others'

Since her show-stopping performance on Britain's Got Talent, Becky O'Brien says she has been inundated with supportive words from other people after she spoke about her marriage. But on ITV's *This Morning* on Monday, the mum-of-five asked that people did not 'feel sorry' for her. Speaking to the Chron after-

"I just thought, why not?" She said. "I always think if something else goes wrong in life, it means something else is going to go right.

"This was my chance to show my kids that their mum can take a risk.

"They had never even all seen me perform before the Britain's Got Talent audition," she said.

wards she said: "I didn't say what I said for a sob story.

"I was asked why my marriage had broken down and I guess I just explained it.

"It's really, really nice to feel I have given people hope and confidence to talk about their situation.

"That has made it worthwhile for me."

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Ex-F1 star signs up for Wings for Life

By ALICE DYER
Web Editor
alice.dyer@jpress.co.uk

Ex-Formula One star David Coulthard has been announced as the special guest for the annual Wings for Life World Run in Northamptonshire next month.

He will be driving the notorious "catcher car" which crosses the start line roughly an hour after the last runner, disqualifying the contestants he catches up with.

More than 5,000 are expected to take part in the 100km race, running through the Northamptonshire countryside to raise money for spinal cord injuries.

The run will begin in Silverstone Village at noon on Sunday, May 3.

On the same day, other World Run events will be taking place in countries such as Switzerland, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

Runners in the UK event



Thousands of people will be taking part in the Wings For Life World Run in Northamptonshire next month

will set off from Silverstone and follow the route down Whittlebury Road and on to Church Street, before being directed through Wood Green and the Dadford Road Campsite.

It will continue through Blakesley, up to Preston Capes, down to Eydon, across to Sulgrave, through Biddlesden and back up via Stowe

before finishing back at Silverstone.

There will be rolling road closures around these areas throughout the event.

Some amendments have been made to previously published details. For updates, and information on how to enter the race or volunteer to help, can be found at www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com

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ABTA

Reader Travel



Melissa Mehrstens, from Northampton College won The Design Award overall winner title

Student wins hat design competition

An aspiring hat maker from Northampton College could be supplying headwear to the Duchess of Cambridge after winning an international competition.

Melissa Mehrstens, a millinery student at the college's Booth Lane campus in Northampton, was named the overall winner of The Design Award organ-

ised by the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London.

The 17-year-old, who cites Alexander McQueen as her design hero, scooped the £1,200 first prize for her hat and will now get a work experience placement with Rachel Trevor Morgan, milliner to the Duchess of Cambridge.

She said: "The chance to design and make hats was one

of the main reasons I came to Northampton College as I really wanted to learn new skills.

"I absolutely love it and to win this competition is amazing." The teenager, who says she will spend her prize money a new dress and a new pair of shoes, said the inspiration for her prize-winning woman's hat came from Norse mythology.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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The future of freight is ... underground?

By PAUL LYNCH
Reporter
paul.lynych@jpress.co.uk

A new study is to look at bringing an underground goods delivery service to Northampton in a bid to ease the town's road congestion.

The aptly titled Mole Solutions is to use the town, often thought of as the logistics capital of the UK, as a test bed for a subterranean railway system currently being tested at an airfield in Huntingdon.

The firm, which was established in 2002, has been awarded a government grant to complete a 'desk-based' feasibility study about launching the scheme in Northampton.

Managing director Roger Miles said: "We are certainly not looking at digging any tunnels at this stage. This is purely and simply a test bed to understand the real cost involved in such a project."

Mr Miles said the firm chose Northampton as the town has a high saturation of logistics companies.

The concept of the underground line, he said, is aimed at reducing the level of road freight and lorries within urban areas.

The electric powered Mole 'capsules' would be unmanned and able to carry smaller



SUBMITTED PICTURE

A new concept of distributing freight underground may be piloted in Northampton to ease congestion

items currently carried by 40ft lorries, such as packages and non-bulky goods.

The freight pipelines would link edge of town centres with strategically placed inner town 'nodal points'.

Mole Solutions is set to report back on its findings in December.

"This project is really about seeing if we can improve the freight distribution situation in Northampton," Mr Miles said.

"The lines would be out of site and out of mind, and the environmental impact would be minimal, what's not to like?" he added. "Just imagine

if we didn't have water taken to and from our homes from underground pipes?"

Patrick Cross of the Whitehills and Spring Park Residents Association (WASPRA) has welcomed the concept of the scheme. He and a number of other WASPRA members have been campaigning to reduce road congestion in the Whitehills and Spring Park area by calling for a north west bypass for the town.

He said: "Anything that takes heavy vehicles off the surface we have to welcome."

"An underground freight system has got to be a step in the right direction."

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Part of this excellent economy potential is down to changes in the latest A6 range, which saw a new auto gearbox that lets the car coast along in neutral if you lift off the throt-

tle. You scarcely notice, and the gears engage again the instant you need them.

Stop at a red light and the engine shuts down until you press the accelerator, in the manner of many modern cars. But the A6 will switch itself back on – to power up the air con in a long traffic jam, for instance – and then switch off once more. That's not common, and another way to save a drop of diesel. All very clever, and part of the reason this A6 earns its Ultra name tag.

The A6 is a saloon, which means it looks posher than a

hatch but lacks the ability to simply chuck everything in the boot and forget about it.

S line equipment includes big alloy wheels and LED lighting. Heated seats are £300 extra, when they ought to be standard at this price.

There's enough power to ensure that even with a full boot and four adults on board there is no sense of struggle as an hill is tackled.

It remains though more a car to admire than relish. Better to appreciate its immaculate taste and finish than hope for a sporting feel at the wheel.



AUDI A6 2.0 TDI ULTRA S LINE

190PS STRONIC

PRICE: £35,935

DRIVETRAIN: 2.0 litre 187bhp diesel engine, automatic gearbox

PERFORMANCE: Top speed 144mph 0-62mph 8.2 seconds

ECONOMY: Euro average 67.3mpg CO2 110g/km road tax £0 first year, then £20

SIZE: 4933mm long 1874mm wide

SAFETY: Euro NCAP 5 stars

INSURANCE: Group 27

WARRANTY: Three years or 60,000 miles

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Model shown is MY14 Auris Hybrid Icon Plus 5-door hatchback 1.8 VVT-i Auto (CVT) at £21,545.00. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative and £750 Finance Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of MY14 Auris (excluding Active) when ordered between 16th December 2014 and 30th June 2015 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th June 2015 on a 36 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0-32% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 36 month Access Toyota contract with £5,646.30 customer deposit, £750 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC registered office, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with these offers. Excess miles over 30,000 miles charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

MY14 Auris Hybrid Icon Plus 5-door hatchback 1.8 VVT-i Auto (CVT). Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 76.4 (3.7). CO2 Emissions 87g/km. The mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.



Model shown is MY15 Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto (CVT) at £16,195. Offer excludes pearlescent paint at an extra £650. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative available on new retail orders of MY15 Yaris (excluding Active) when ordered between 16th December 2014 and 30th June 2015 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th June 2015 on a 42 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0-32% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 42 month Access Toyota contract with £2,101 customer deposit, £500 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with these offers. Excess miles over 35,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

MY15 Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto (CVT). Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 85.6 (3.3). CO2 Emissions 75g/km. The mpg & CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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Audi

AUDI A3 SPORT FSI



05, 1.6, 131000 miles,
silver, petrol, 2005, Full
Bose sound system, Audi
factory sat nav, parking
sensors, alloys, black
sporty interior, 6 speed
manual, 3 doors, full
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condition. £3,150 ono
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2005

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2002

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Fiat

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2003

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2011

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1998 £395 ono

Honda



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EXECUTIVE** 02, 1.6, 133,000
miles, silver, petrol, 2002,
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Tel: 07516144522
2002 £700 ono

Ford

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petrol, 2011, Excellent
condition, fully serviced,
MOT'd until March 2016.
£5,500 ono Tel:
07713012295

£5,500 ono

Ford

FORD MONDEO 2.0



estate, diesel, Metallic grey, 2008, 114,500 miles, 5
seats, MOT until October 2015, Good condition,
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for ref only) Tel: 01933 624005

2008

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Honda**HONDA CR-V VTEC EXECUTIVE**

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2006**£4,950****Nissan****NISSAN NOTE N-TEC+**

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**2013****£7,500 ono****Peugeot****PEUGEOT 206 FEVER**

53, 1.1, genuine 36,000 miles, silver, petrol, 2004, FSH, MOT to Jan 16, VGC, electric front windows. £1,300 ono **Tel: 01536 481098**

**2004****£1,300 ono****PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO**

55, 1.6, 42,000 miles, red, petrol, 2005, Full service history, taxed till May MOT till November, good condition, careful owner. £2,300 **Tel: 01858 565539**

2005**£2,300****PEUGEOT PARTNER TEEPE OUTDOOR HDI**

11, 1.6, 48,422 miles, grey, diesel, 2011. A very clean no damage car, 2 owners MOT March 2016, service history, alloy wheels, central locking alarm immobiliser, airbags.. £5,900 ono **Tel: 07982918518**

2011**£5,900 ono****Rover****ROVER 416 SLI 1.6**

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2009**£3,750****Suzuki**

SUZUKI ALTO SZ3 10, 1.0, 22,000 miles, blue, petrol, 2010, Excellent condition, 1 owner, MOT, Service History. £2,900 **Tel: 07909953045**

2010**£2,900****Smart**

MCC SMART PULSE **SOFTIP(RHD) S** 52, 0.6, 92,000 miles, silver, petrol, 2003, (C50 tax). £1,599 ono **Tel: 07982675188**

2003**£1,599 ono**

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Vauxhall**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**

3 door hatchback, petrol, blue, 2008, 74,000 miles, 5 seats, Road tax June, 8 month MOT, Very clean condition, genuine reason for sale. £2,295 ono **Tel: 07868 181690**

2008**£2,295 ono (Pic as ref)****VAUXHALL CORSA LS 1.4i**

R, 1.4, 76,764 miles, blue, petrol, 1997, AUTOMATIC MOT Dec 2015 very reliable. Sunroof, usb/iPod stereo. New brake pads fitted for MOT, price includes new water pump & belt for next service some rust on drivers door, some cosmetic scratches. £400 ono **Tel: 01536742210**

1997**£400 ono****Talbot****TALBOT EXPRESS 1300 P**

h, 2.0, 80,000 miles, white, petrol, 1990, 4 birth, Tax and MOT, shower, toilet, hot water, cooker, fridge, microwave, TV and bike rack. Very good condition.. £4,600 ono **Tel: 07968227609**

1990**£4,600 ono****Volkswagen**

VOLKSWAGEN POLO **TWIST** 05, 1.2, 76,000 miles, silver, petrol, 2005, Good condition. £1,950 ono **Tel: 07928402570**

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2007**£4600 ono****Volkswagen****VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT S TDI**

05, 1.9, 160,000 miles, grey, diesel, 2005, Good condition. Only two owners, MOT until June 2015. Tax until end of May.. £1,000 ono **Tel: 0791441537**

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CLARKE Adam 'Clarkey'

10.4.87 - 27.4.06

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Mum, Dad and Rob.
x x x x x

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always. Love Bev,
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Closing date: **Tuesday 12th May 2015**
Interviews: **W/C 18th May 2015**



Registration for the latest JobsToday virtual careers fair has now opened

Jobstoday have opened registration for their latest national Virtual Careers Fair to connect talented job seekers to local and national employers.

The Virtual Careers Fair is an online platform where job seekers can browse top companies from across the UK, connect in a real time environment and apply for advertised vacancies; all for FREE and from the comfort of their computers. Proven a popular platform with both employers and job seekers alike, the 12 day fair will take place from the 2nd September to the 13th September.

Exciting online features include chat and video technology; businesses can bring to life their vacancies while job seekers can speak to employers to really show off their skills and expertise to help them land their next job. Job seekers can also take advantage of the compatibility test which allows them to find out which companies are most suited to them.

A wide range of employers will be attending to suit every candidate's needs - great businesses already booked to attend

include Nationwide and Sodexo.

The pre-registration process will guarantee registrants entry to the event ensuring they don't miss out. Plus, all job seekers who register before the 2nd September will be automatically entered into a free prize draw to win an iPad Mini.

Joanne Harwood, Group Category Manager at Johnston Press, said: "Our aim is to help candidates and employers to connect all over the country. With busy lifestyles searching for that perfect job can be a time-consuming exercise, especially when trying to juggle existing work commitments. A virtual experience, which results in the same outcome by helping job seekers find better opportunities at the convenience of their homes, can only benefit job seekers."

Job seekers interested in the fair are encouraged to sign up for free today at www.jobstodaycareersfair.com to ensure they are guaranteed entry from the 2nd September.

Businesses can find out how to get involved by contacting 0114-299 6173 or emailing info@jobstoday.co.uk



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SPORT

Willey delight at England call

Northants all-rounder selected in one-day squad for Ireland trip

CRICKET

David Willey has been named in the England one-day squad to play Ireland next week.

The Northants all-rounder has been in fine form since the start of the season and registered his maiden LV= County Championship century in the opening game against Gloucestershire.

However, it has always been his limited-overs skills which have attracted most attention and he has now been rewarded with a call-up to the national ranks.

Willey, whose father Peter played 26 Test matches and the same number of one-day internationals for his country, said: "I am obviously delighted and honoured to receive the call as it has been a life-long ambition to wear an England shirt.

"I have worked so hard with training and on my fitness over the winter so it is great to

be rewarded so early on during the season.

"Cricket is my passion so to play for my home county and be recognised by my country is the ultimate accolade.

"The fact that I'm following in my dad's footsteps makes it even sweeter."

Northants head coach David Ripley added: "We are really proud that David's immense talent and hard work has been acknowledged by the ECB.

"Everyone in the changing-room will be wishing him luck and following his progress."

The match will take place in Dublin next Friday (May 8) and Willey is one of six new faces in the squad.

He is joined by Kent's wicketkeeper-batsman Sam Billings, Somerset all-rounder Lewis Gregory, Surrey's Zafar Ansari and Jason Roy and Hampshire's James Vince.

Several senior names have been left out giving the new calls a chance to press their claims following England's disastrous World Cup campaign earlier this year.



ENGLAND CALLING David Willey has been named in the one-day squad to play Ireland in Dublin in a 50-over match next Friday

D'Ath- The best yet!

LAWSON D'ATH declared the stunning volley he scored for the Cobblers at Burton Albion on Saturday is the best goal of his career so far.

The Reading youth product gave the 700-strong travelling support something to remember from their trip to the Pirelli Stadium with a quite brilliant goal in the 3-1 defeat.

There didn't look a lot on as Joel Byrom clipped the ball into D'Ath, making a run from the penalty spot to the right side of the penalty area.

The Town man had his back to goal and a lot to do, but he chested the ball with his first touch, and then swivelled and struck a dipping volley over and across Burton goalkeeper

FOOTBALL

Jon McLaughlin and into the top corner.

The goal saw Town pull the score back to 3-1 after a disastrous opening 45 minutes that saw them fall 3-0 behind, and D'Ath said: "I would say that is the best goal of my career.

"It was almost like I caught the ball with the sweet spot of my boot, and it just flew off my foot and went in."

The 22-year-old is coming towards the end of his first full season of senior football, and admitted there was a sense of disappointment that the bid to reach the play-offs has fallen short.

"We are all devastated to be honest, because looking back we had a good

chance four weeks ago to cement a place in the play-offs," said D'Ath. "But Saturday has summed up our season as a whole.

"We will now all come back stronger next season, and look to push on and get that promotion."

The Cobblers wrap up their season this Saturday with a game against promotion-chasing Wycombe Wanderers at Sixfields (ko 3pm).

The Chairboys need to win to have any chance of claiming third place in Sky Bet League Two, but the Cobblers will be going all out to deny them.

Defender Lee Collins is a doubt after suffering a knee injury at Burton, but Marc Richards could start his first game since February.

Dickson hails Myler

SCRUM-HALF Lee Dickson says Stephen Myler is the 'heart and soul' of Saints.

And he is 'praying' the fly-half picks up more honours with club and country in the years to come.

Myler was named man of the match in Saturday's 25-20 Aviva Premiership win against Saracens, kicking 20 points at stadium:mk.

He was also highlighted as the main man in Saints' Premiership final victory against the same opponents last May and starred against Bath in the Amlin Challenge Cup showpiece.

Dickson, who made his 200th Saints appearance last Saturday, and Myler are the most consistent half-back pairing in Premiership history.

And the Saints no.9 is

RUGBY

hoping his team-mate can now go on to win more trophies with his club as well as adding to his solitary England cap.

"Stephen puts us around the park really well," said Dickson.

"He is the heart and soul of the club, he pulls the strings.

"I've probably played near enough 100 times with him and he is easy-going.

"He loses his temper now and again, but you've just got to tell him to shut up.

"He is an exceptional player and I am praying he has more honours."

Meanwhile, Saints this week jettied off to Portugal for a warm weather bonding session as Jim Mallinder looks to steel his squad for a final Premiership title push.

Mallinder's men are five points clear at the top of the league table with two regular season games to go.

They will not be in action this weekend due to the Champions Cup final, with the next match a home clash with London Welsh on May 9.

If Saints can win that they will be guaranteed a home play-off semi-final on May 23 as they bid to reach the following Saturday's Twickenham showpiece.

And Mallinder is hoping a change of scenery will bring his players together as they bid to retain their title.

"We've got a week off now and we're going to take the lads away to Portugal for a bit more bonding," said the director of rugby. "We'll prepare for what will hopefully be another four games."

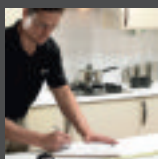
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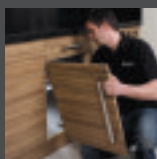
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activities For under 5's



• Soft Zone

• Rugby Cubz

• Soccer Cubz

• Boogie Cubz

• Gym Mini Cubz

• Jumpin' Cubz

• Preschool Gym Mini's/
Gymnastics

• Tiddler and Preschool
Swimming Lessons



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